



wisconsin department of  
**children + families**

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## **Jury Finds Provider Guilty of Child Care Fraud**

The anti-fraud efforts of the Department of Children and Families today resulted in the conviction of another child care provider's who had been stealing from Wisconsin's taxpayers. Mark Rouse, owner of Growing and Learning, Inc., was found guilty by a Milwaukee jury of two counts of felony theft.

The Department of Children and Families uncovered signs that fraud may be taking place at Growing and Learning. During their investigation, the Department of Children and Families (DCF) saw no activity and no children present at Growing and Learning. However, during this time Rouse continued to bill the Wisconsin Shares subsidy program for providing care to children. As a member of the Milwaukee Anti-Fraud Task Force, DCF worked in partnership with law enforcement on stopping this criminal activity.

"Mark Rouse cheated the hard working people of Wisconsin and today he was held accountable for his actions," stated DCF Secretary Eloise Anderson. "We continue to work closely with law enforcement to identify, investigate and prosecute those who steal valuable tax dollars."

By tackling fraud in Wisconsin Shares, DCF has saved taxpayers over \$130 million. Governor Scott Walker is committed to eliminating waste, fraud and abuse of public funds.

This conviction is a result of the collaborative work by the Milwaukee Child Care Anti-Fraud Task Force, led by the Department of Children and Families and the Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office, which works in partnership to investigate and prosecute child care fraud. The joint effort also includes the Milwaukee Police Department, Milwaukee County Sheriff's Department, Wisconsin Department of Justice, Wisconsin Department of Revenue, Internal Revenue Service, and Milwaukee County Human Services Department.